



Over 75% of confirmed vessel collisions with whales involve calves.

### The Basics: Staying Safe and Legal

All ocean users (power boaters, sailors, jet skiers, kayakers, paddlers, windsurfers, swimmers, divers, etc.) must:

**Keep a Safe Distance** – Do not chase, closely approach, surround, swim with, or attempt to touch humpback whales.

**Follow Federal Regulations** that prohibit approaching (by any means) within 100 yards (90 meters) when on or in the water, and 1,000 feet (300 meters) when operating an aircraft. These regulations apply to all ocean users throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

### Avoiding Collisions and Disturbance

**Keep a Sharp Lookout** – Vessel operators should always stay vigilant for whales and other collision hazards. Look out ahead for “blows” (puffs of mist), dorsal fins, tails, etc. Operators are further advised to post at least one dedicated whale lookout, in addition to the operator, from November through May.

**Watch Your Speed** – NOAA recommends that vessels travel at a slow, safe speed in areas where a whale strike may occur. This speed depends on vessel type, time of day, sea conditions, and other factors that affect whale detection and avoidance. Research shows that collisions occurring at vessel speeds above 10 knots cause more whale deaths and serious injuries than collisions occurring at slower speeds.

**Stay at the Helm** – Keep hands on the wheel and throttle at all times, and be ready to take action immediately to avoid a whale in your path.

**Keep Your Distance** – Once whales are sighted, stay more than 100 yards away.

**Stop Immediately** if within 100 yards or less of a humpback whale. Leave engines running, out of gear (in neutral) until the whale moves away.


**Go Around Whales from Behind** while maintaining more than 100 yards distance, if you encounter whales in your path. Do not attempt to run out in front of whales to get past them.

**Warn Other Vessels** – Use appropriate VHF radio protocol or other means to alert other vessels that may not be aware of whales in their path.

**Don't Assume Whales See You** or will get out of the way. Calves are especially vulnerable since they are curious and may not have learned to be cautious of vessels.

**Plan Ahead for Delays** in transit due to whale encounters; avoid nighttime operations if possible.

**Call the NOAA Hotline** if involved in a collision: **1-888-256-9840**

If a phone call is not possible, hail the U.S. Coast Guard on VHF channel 16. 





# Support Your Sanctuary

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (foundation), a private, non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, assists the federally managed Office of National Marine Sanctuaries with education and outreach programs designed to preserve, protect and promote meaningful opportunities for public interaction with the nation's marine sanctuaries.

Individuals, groups, and corporations can play a key role in ensuring our underwater treasures are still here for future generations to enjoy. Your tax deductible contribution to the foundation is an investment in the future. Support Hawai'i's humpback whales and the efforts of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary by making a donation to the foundation today!

- Support the Koholā Campaign by making a donation using the envelope provided in this newsletter or by visiting <http://nmsfocean.org>.
- Visit the sanctuary's Web site to find information on other ways you can support the sanctuary (purchase logo wear, a specialty license plate and more).
- Become a member of the foundation by visiting <http://nmsfocean.org/join.asp>.

(The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's tax identification number is: 94-3370994 and Combined Federal Campaign number is 10762.)

## License Plate Project

Looking for a unique way to show your spirit for the sanctuary and humpback whales? Now you can do just that by trading in your license plate for a special organization plate that will feature a decal of the sanctuary's whale tail logo. This statewide program was enacted by Hawai'i's legislature. The initial fee to replace your current license plate with a decal plate will be \$30.50. Of that, \$20 will go directly to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to support the efforts of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. Each year, a total of \$25 will be added to your registration fees, \$20 of that will also benefit the sanctuary. Applications are available online for the City and County of Honolulu and Hawai'i County. Maui County and Kauai County have forms available at motor vehicle registration offices.



## Make a Difference

In each issue of *Koholā Connection*, we will feature information on how people are making a difference to Hawai'i's marine environment. If you know of a person or group that is making a difference, whether by conducting marine research, educating others or finding a unique way to "go green" E-mail us at [hihumpbackwhale@noaa.gov](mailto:hihumpbackwhale@noaa.gov).

Outrigger Hotels and Resorts and NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries have

entered into a groundbreaking agreement designed to expand public awareness about ocean conservation. This innovative partnership, in fact the first of its kind between NOAA and a hotel company, will make a difference by increasing public awareness about the state's fragile marine environment to both tourists and local residents. A variety of education programs are being offered on O'ahu and the Big Island, and during this





whale season, hotel guests will be encouraged to volunteer for the 2009 Sanctuary Ocean Count in an effort to increase "voluntourism." For more information about Outrigger Hotels & Resorts, visit [www.outrigger.com](http://www.outrigger.com).



## Green Corner

**Don't forget to "go green" by signing up to receive this publication electronically – see the back cover for more information.**

**As part of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' *Blue Seas, Green Communities Initiative*, the sanctuary is now working with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to sell reusable shopping bags featuring the sanctuary logo. Visit our Web site to find out how to purchase yours today! Also, don't miss the new organic Sanctuary Ocean Count T-shirts!**



# Sanctuary Snapshots

In each issue of *Kohola Connection*, we will feature a few of our favorite “Sanctuary Snapshots.” Submit your favorite photos of marine wildlife, scenery or people enjoying the sanctuary along with your contact information to [hihumpbackwhale@noaa.gov](mailto:hihumpbackwhale@noaa.gov).



Credits (clockwise from top): Seals by Patrick Doyle, Tidepool by Kevin Brammer, Whale Jumping by Robert and Barbara Billand, Waves Madeline Kunsberg and Whale Fins by Kenneth Tingman.



# Upcoming Events

The sanctuary invites the community to get involved in these events! Please check our Web site regularly for updates to the event calendar!

## **Ocean Awareness Training – O'ahu**

This special six-session training will be offered Mondays and Tuesdays from **November 10th to the 25th**. Environmental organizations on O'ahu are joining forces to offer a free Ocean Awareness certification course to the community. After completing all six sessions and one field day component, participants will receive a C.O.R.A.L. (care of our Culture, Ocean, Reefs and Animal Life) Card that demonstrates one's ocean knowledge. Basic ocean topics, with a focus on marine mammals, will be covered this fall. Advance registration is required. This course will also be offered on Maui and O'ahu in the spring of 2009.

Place: Hawai'i Kai and Waikiki, various locations

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Contact: 397-2651 x 249 (O'ahu) or e-mail [oceantraining@gmail.com](mailto:oceantraining@gmail.com)

## **Boater Workshop Series**

Please join the sanctuary and NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement for a 2-hour workshop designed to help ocean users stay safe and legal during whale season. The workshop will offer new information on operating around whales as well as information on increased law enforcement efforts.

**November 6** – Maalaea, Maui  
Maui Ocean Center  
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**November 7** – Lahaina, Maui  
Wharf Cinema Center  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**November 12** – Hawai'i Kai, O'ahu  
Sanctuary Conference Room  
6600 Kalaniana'ole Hwy, 3rd Floor  
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**November 13** – Kapolei, O'ahu  
Kapolei Hale, Conference Room A  
4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**November 18** – Waimea, Kaua'i  
West Kaua'i Technology & Visitor Center  
Conference Room  
9565 Kaumuali'i Hwy.  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**November 24** – Kona, Hawai'i  
Kealahou High School Library  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**November 25** – Hilo, Hawai'i  
Mokupāpapa Center  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

E-mail [hihumpbackwhale@noaa.gov](mailto:hihumpbackwhale@noaa.gov) or call your local office.

## **Sanctuary Ocean Count**

Get involved in the 2009 Sanctuary Ocean Count project! Count humpback whales and record their behaviors from various shore sites around the islands of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and O'ahu. This activity takes place on **January 31, February 28 and March 28**. For more information on locations and volunteer opportunities, visit the sanctuary's Web site. Registration begins in December. For 2009, web registration will be available for select islands.

Place: Various sites on Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and O'ahu

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Contact: 397-2651 x 253 (O'ahu),  
1-888-55-WHALE x 253 (Hawai'i),  
246-2860 (Kaua'i)

The 2009 Sanctuary Ocean Count T-shirt has gone green... well, blue actually. This year's tees are printed on river blue organic T-shirts with water-based ink. They feature a great new design by Eques Inc. Get yours today by visiting our Web site or by calling 1-888-55-WHALE x 253.



## **Humpback Whale Month**

February is Humpback Whale Month in Hawai'i! The sanctuary will be offering a variety of special events and activities throughout the month, so don't miss your chance to get involved. Events range from educational lectures to lunchtime whale watches and art contests. Visit the Web site for more information or call your local sanctuary office!







## Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

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## About the Sanctuary

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary lies within the shallow, warm waters surrounding the main Hawaiian Islands and constitutes one of the world's most important humpback whale habitats. Through education, research and resource protection activities, the sanctuary strives to protect humpback whales and their habitat in Hawai'i.

## Vision/Mission

The sanctuary works collaboratively to sustain a safe and healthy habitat for the North Pacific stock of humpback whales (koholā). As a community of ocean stewards, the sanctuary strives to achieve a balance of appropriate uses, inspired care taking, enlightened understanding, and effective education to ensure the continued presence of the koholā for future generations. The sanctuary endeavors to do this with harmony, hope, respect, and aloha o ke kai (love of the sea).



## Koholā Connection is Going Digital

To save trees and costs, the spring issue and all future issues of *Koholā Connection* will be digital and will be available online via our Web site at [hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov](http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov)

If you are not able to view future issues electronically, call **1-888-55-WHALE** or please e-mail the sanctuary at [hihumpbackwhale@noaa.gov](mailto:hihumpbackwhale@noaa.gov) to remain on the mailing list. Provide your full name and current address.

## How to Subscribe

To subscribe to *Koholā Connection* and to receive periodic updates and announcements from the sanctuary electronically, please send an e-mail to [requests@willamette.nos.noaa.gov](mailto:requests@willamette.nos.noaa.gov) with the following in the e-mail subject line: **subscribe hihumpbackwhale**